

REMARKS

Abstract Objection

The abstract was objected to for not relating to the pending claims. A new abstract has been provided, thereby overcoming this objection.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to update various patent numbers as requested by the Examiner. Also, page 9, line 1 has been amended to include reference numerals 105 and 111 for the torsion springs.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 10 has been amended to show torsion springs 105 and 111.

Claim Objections

Claims 21 and 23 have been objected to for antecedent bases reasons. Claims 21 and 23 have been amended to overcome such objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 20-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kroulik. This rejection is respectfully traversed in part and overcome in part.

As now amended, claim 20 claims a releasable clamp for a two wheeled vehicle. The clamp includes a frame member and a cover plate that are configured to clamp the wheel axle. A lever is attached to the cover plate, and a hook member is pivotally attached to the lever and hooks onto the frame member. When the lever is pulled, the cover plate and the frame member are moved closer together. Further, an adjustment system is provided to adjust the clamping force applied to the axle by the frame member and the cover plate when the lever is pulled.

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Amendments to the Drawings

Replacement Figure 10 is provided along with an annotated version of Figure 10.

In contrast to the clamp of claim 20, the Kroulik patent fails to disclose any type of adjustment mechanism for adjusting the clamping force. As best understood, the Kroulik patent illustrates a lever and a hook that do not include any means for adjusting the clamping force.

Hence, claim 20 which is been amended to recite such an adjustment system is distinguishable and in condition for allowance. Claims 21-24 depend from claim 20 and are distinguishable for at least the reasons previously described.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kroulik in view of Wells. Claim 26 depends from claim 20 which is distinguishable over Kroulik as previously described. Because the Wells patent also fails to teach such limitations, claim 26 is distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

Added claim

Claim 27 has been added and is also distinguishable over the cited art. More specifically, independent claim 27 claims among other elements a frame member that is coupled to a front fork member. With this configuration, the frame member rests on a top portion of the wheel axle when the vehicle is resting on its two wheels. Also, the cover plate is coupled to the frame member so that the cover plate contacts a bottom portion of the wheel axle. In this way, the wheel can be easily coupled to a bicycle frame by resting the frame member onto the wheel axle (when the wheel is on the ground) and then coupling the cover plate to the bottom portion of the wheel axle. In this manner, the rider does not need to support the weight of the bicycle when coupling the wheel. Since such features are not described in the cited art, claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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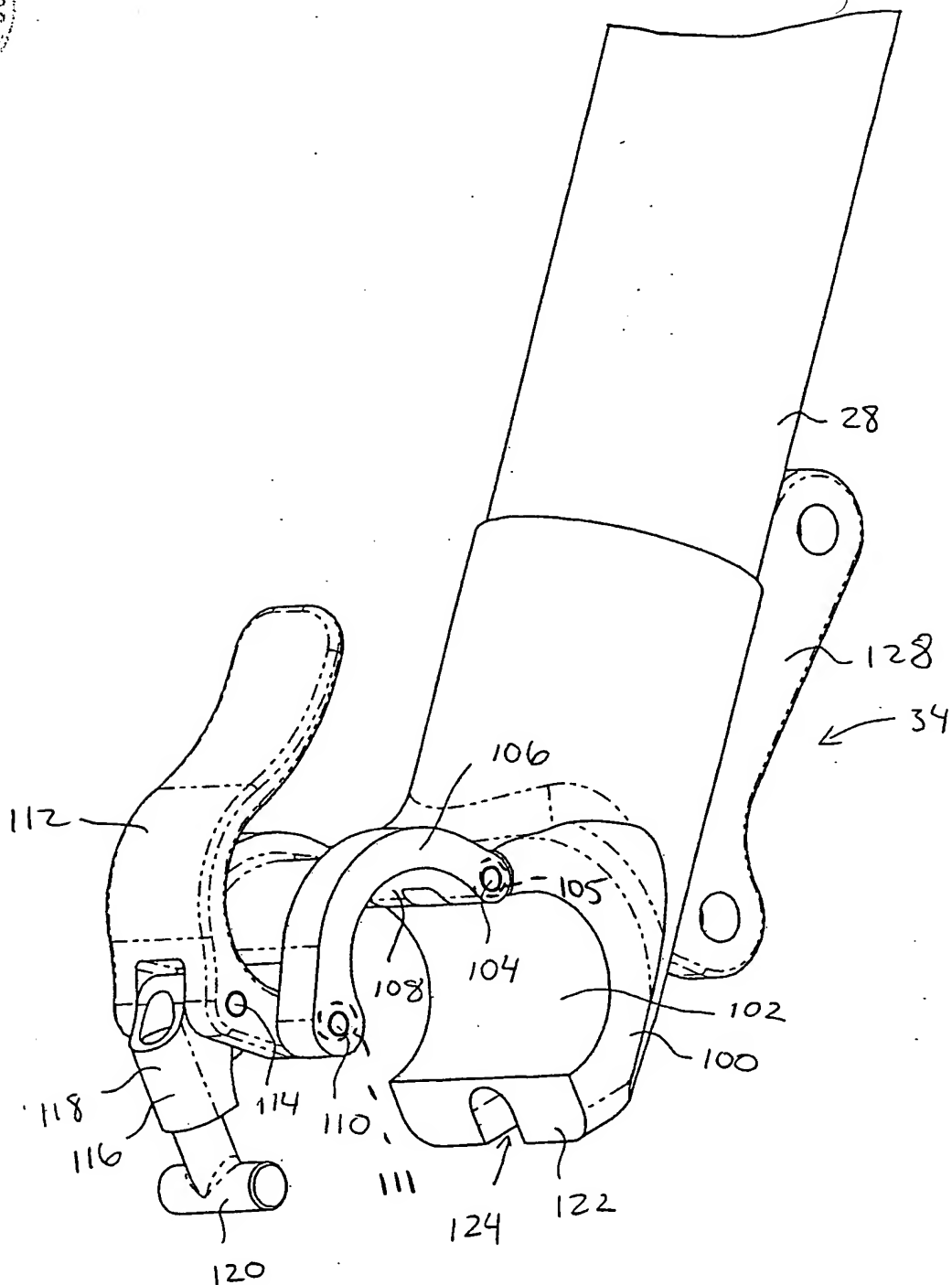


FIG. 10